

## **Howard Malcolm Blanchard, 89**

Howard Malcolm Blanchard, 89, of Duxbury, died Tuesday, June 13, 2017, after years of living with Alzheimer's Disease. He was a former Duxbury fire chief.

Blanchard is survived by his son, Howard "Tom" Blanchard and his wife Mary; his daughter, Kim Smart and her husband Ron; his three grandchildren, Katie, Torry and his wife Heather, Brianne and her husband Dave; and seven great-grandchildren: Zack, Devan, Treyvor, Reyleigh, Drake, Colt and Raygan. He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Rita (Valeriani) Blanchard, who died in 1994 and his brothers, Lloyd and Kendall and his sister, Ann.

He was born in Boston, the son of Edna (MacQuarrie) and Kendall W. Blanchard. Howard had served in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean conflict. He returned to his hometown of Duxbury and worked as a full-time firefighter. He was appointed the first full-time officer when he attained the rank of lieutenant, the previous officers having been within the call department force. He later became deputy and then chief of the fire department. Mr. Blanchard was in the first class of emergency medical technicians, completing his training in the emergency ward at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He was a member of the first underwater rescue team; Howard, along with other Duxbury Fire Department members, trained at Otis Air Force Base as SCUBA was just being introduced. After retiring from the fire department, he worked summers as the captain at the Duxbury Yacht Club.

During his life, he also served the town of Duxbury as gas inspector, building inspector and as a special police officer. Mr. Blanchard enjoyed various active leisure pursuits, including downhill skiing, camping and sailing and motor boating. He passed time at home making reproduction Colonial American furniture pieces for friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452. O'Connor Brothers Funeral Home, 592 Park Ave., Worcester, assisted the family with arrangements.